

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-56 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer).

57 (currently amended): A substrate coated with an essentially water-free composition, wherein said composition comprises a superabsorbent polymer that absorbs greater than 100 times its weight in water in combination with a compound, wherein said compound comprises a petroleum lubricant, synthetic lubricant, grease, or solid lubricant, or combinations thereof, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

58 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein said compound comprises a petroleum lubricant or synthetic lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains an additive which comprises a detergent or a dispersant.

59 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein said superabsorbent polymer is neutralized or cross-linked, and is based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

60 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 58 wherein said superabsorbent polymer is neutralized or cross-linked, and is based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

61 (currently amended): The substrate of claim 57 wherein said compound comprises a petroleum oil, an organic ester, or a glycol, ~~and~~ or combinations thereof.

62 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein said substrate comprises a cable.

63 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein said substrate comprises a wire.

64 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer).

65 (currently amended): A method of protecting a substrate from the affects of water or water migration comprising coating said substrate with an essentially water-free composition, wherein said composition comprises a superabsorbent polymer that absorbs greater than 100 times its weight in water in combination with a compound, wherein said compound comprises a petroleum lubricant, synthetic lubricant, grease, or solid lubricant, or combinations thereof, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

66 (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein said compound comprises a petroleum lubricant or synthetic lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains an additive which comprises a detergent or a dispersant.

67 (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein said superabsorbent polymer is neutralized or cross-linked, and is based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

68 (previously presented): The method of claim 66 wherein said superabsorbent polymer is neutralized or cross-linked, and is based on acrylic acid, acrylamide, or an acrylate.

69 (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein said compound comprises a petroleum oil, an organic ester, or a glycol, and combinations thereof.

70 (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein said substrate comprises a cable.

71 (previously presented): The method of claim 65 wherein said substrate comprises a wire.

72 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer)

73 (previously presented): The substrate of claim 57 wherein the particle size of the superabsorbent polymer comprises from about less than 0.5 microns to about 300 microns.

74 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer).

75 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer).

76 (new): The method of claim 65 wherein the particle size of the superabsorbent polymer comprises from about less than 0.5 microns to about 300 microns.

77 (new): The substrate of one of claims 57-63 and 73 wherein said composition comprises a dispersion of said superabsorbent polymer and said compound and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

78 (new): The substrate of claim 77 wherein said compound comprises a petroleum lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

79 (new): The substrate of claim 77 wherein said compound comprises a synthetic lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

80 (new): The substrate of claim 77 wherein said compound comprises a grease, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

81 (new): The substrate of claim 77 wherein said compound comprises a solid lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

82 (new): The method of any one of claims 65-71 and 76 wherein said composition comprises a dispersion of said superabsorbent polymer and said compound and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

83 (new): The method of claim 82 wherein said compound comprises a petroleum lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

84 (new): The method of claim 82 wherein said compound comprises a synthetic lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

85 (new): The method of claim 82 wherein said compound comprises a grease, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

86 (new): The method of claim 82 wherein said compound comprises a solid lubricant, and wherein said compound optionally contains a lubricant additive.

87. (new) The substrate of any one of claims 57-63 and 73 wherein said composition is a product produced by the process of combining said superabsorbent polymer with said compound.

88 (new) The method of any one of claims 65-71 and 76 wherein said composition is a product produced by the process of combining said superabsorbent polymer with said compound.